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REFERENCE:

ATTACHMENT TO M-5956
6 MARCH 1969
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SUPPLY MOVEMENT BY BICYCLE
LAOS
1647N 10629E

1. SIGNIFICANCE:

THIS BRIEFING BOARD DEPICTS ONE OF THE MODES BY WHICH THE NORTH VIETNAMESE ARE MOVING SUBSTANTIAL AMOUNTS OF SUPPLIES ALONG THE WESTERN EDGE OF THE DEMILITARIZED ZONE AND INTO LAOS.

2. LOCATION:

6.0 NM EAST OF LAOS ROUTE 925.

3. BACKGROUND:

THE NEW ROAD UNDER CONSTRUCTION IN LAOS AT UTM XD594578, WHEN COMPLETED, IS EXPECTED TO JOIN LAOS ROUTE 925 WITH NORTH VIETNAM ROUTE 1036.

4. MISSION READOUT:

PHOTOGRAPHY FROM MISSION 875J OF 14 FEBRUARY 1969 REVEALS SEVEN PERSONNEL PUSHING BICYCLES FULLY LOADED WITH SUPPLIES. THIS ACTIVITY IS OCCURRING NEAR THE PRESENT NORTHERN TERMINUS OF THE NEW ROAD UNDER CONSTRUCTION IN LAOS AT 1647N 10629E (UTM XD594578) 6.0 NM EAST OF LAOS ROUTE 925.

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5. REMARKS:

THE BICYCLE IS A CONFIRMED MODE OF TRANSPORTATION READILY AVAILABLE TO THE VC/NVA WHO, LIKE THEIR VIET MINH PREDECESSORS, ARE USING THEM TO TRANSPORT

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AMMUNITION, WEAPONS, AND FOODSTUFFS INTO LAOS AND SOUTH VIETNAM. THOUGH THE SPEED OF TRAVEL IS REDUCED BY TERRAIN AND WEATHER CONDITIONS, THE BICYCLE CAN BE USED WHEN OTHER MODES OF TRANSPORTATION FAIL OR ARE NOT PRACTICAL, AND WHEN LOADS ARE EXCESSIVE FOR PORTERS. EACH BICYCLE COULD CARRY UP TO 500 POUNDS. IT IS ESTIMATED THAT ONE PARK BICYCLE COULD THUS TRANSPORT 7,200 ROUNDS (BOXED) OF 7.62 MM TYPE 53 AMMUNITION OR 100 ROUNDS (BOXED) OF 60 MM MORTAR AMMUNITION; THIS SAME LOAD WOULD REQUIRE THE UTILIZATION OF EIGHT PORTERS. ^{1/} HEAVY LOADS ARE CARRIED ON BICYCLES WITH STRENGTHENED FRONT FORKS AND WITH EXTENSION TO HANDLEBARS AND FRAMES TO ASSIST IN STEERING AND PROPULSION. THE BICYCLE CAN PROBABLY BE PUSHED AT THE RATE OF ABOUT 15 NM PER DAY WHEN FULLY LOADED. SEE INSET.

1/ MACV J2 PERINTREP JUNE 1967 (CONFIDENTIAL)

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MAP REF: ALL UTM COORDINATES ARE TAKEN FROM AMS SERIES L7015, SHEET 6242 I.

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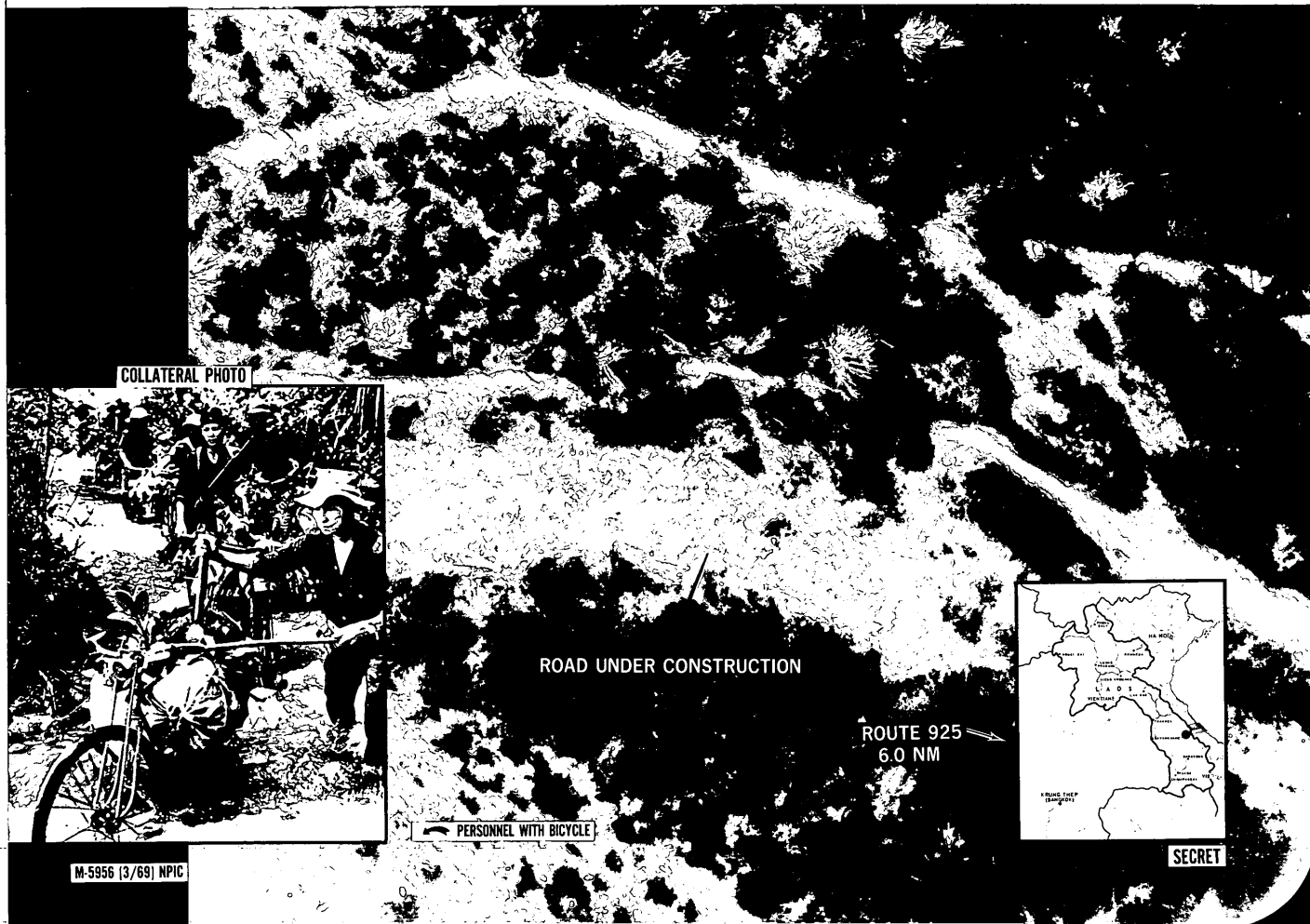
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SUPPLY MOVEMENT BY BICYCLE
DMZ AREA, LAOS
16-47N 106-29E

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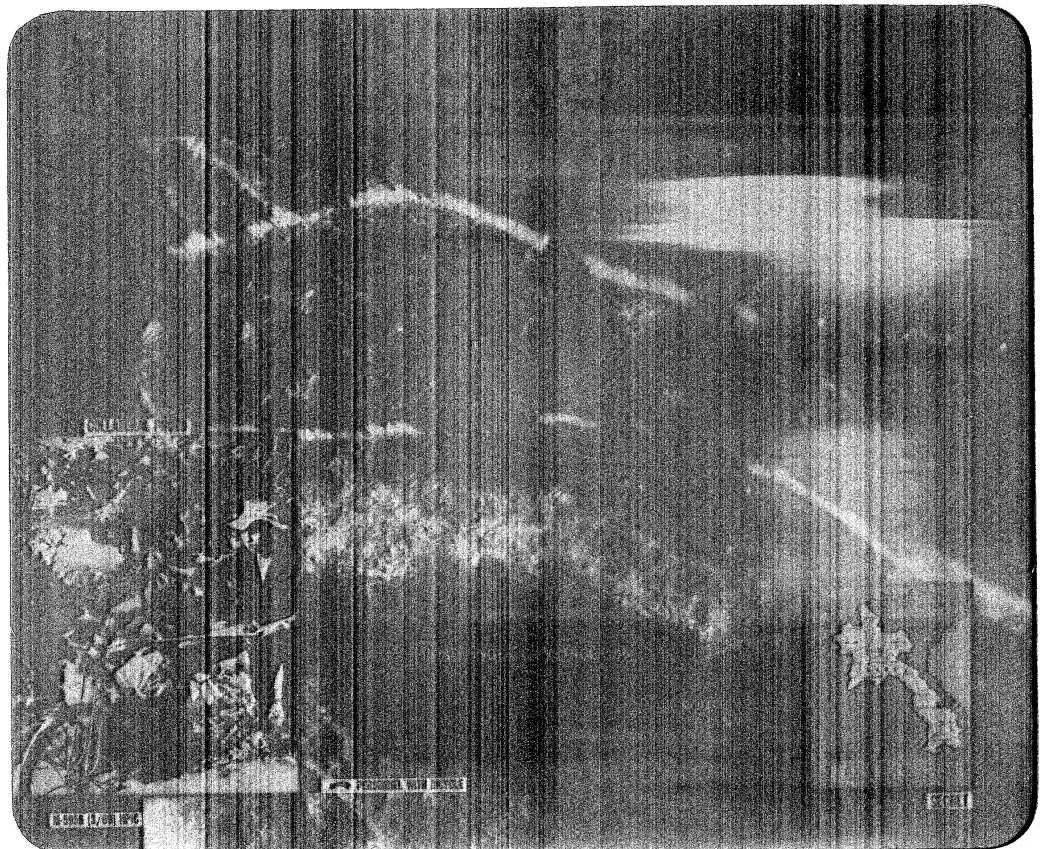
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